the said scheme in Andhra Pradesh devastated with cyclone and floods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) The number of houses constructed in Andhra Pradesh during the Eighth Plan period is 228608. Targets are fixed yearwise on the basis of budgetary allocation available under Indira Awas Yojana. The target for 1997-98 and 1998-99 (first two years of the IXth Five Year Plan) for Andhra Pradesh under Indira Awas Yojana are 56065 and 73645 respectively.

(b) All funds under Indira Awaas Yojana are distributed to States/UTs as per poverty ratio as approved by the Planning Commission. There is no provision for grant of additional assistance under Indira Awaas Yojana guidelines for construction of houses devastated by cyclone and floods.

Constitution of District Planning Committees

2772. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the State which have not yet constituted the District Planning Committees as yet envisaged by the 73rd and 74h constitutional amendments; and

(b) the steps taken to ensure implementation of the institutional amendments by all the States to ensure proper role of Panchayati Raj for various development programmes to uplift the weaker and oppressed sections of society?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) The states of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Union Territories of Chandighar, Doman & Diu, NCT Delhi, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Lakshadweep and Pondicherry have not constituted Distict Planning Committees.

(b) Devolution of administrative and financial powers and functions upon the Panchayats to enable them function as institutions of self-government and capacity building of the representatives is a continuing process. The Government has been urging the State Government to speed up the process of devolution of powers and functions at various fora and is monitoring the progress. The Government has also constituted a Task Force under my Chairmanship to study the structure and functioning of Panchayats. This Task Force will also make recommendations to ensure proper role of Panchayats for various development programmes for the poor and to make them more effective in planning and implementation of these programmes.

JRY Innovation programme

2773 SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new programme called "JRY Innovation" was started;

(b) the details of JRY Innovation programme;

(c) the assessment of this scheme;

(d) whether vast amount of funds were sunk in ill-planned schemes; and

(e) what steps are proposed to formulate practical schemes for rural development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) and (b) The innovative JRY was introduced in 1993-94 to implement Special & Innovative projects to prevent migration of labour, enhancing women's employment opportunities and to benefit special groups of people or areas which were getting by passed by ongoing rural development programmes.

(c) to (c) The projects sanctioned to State Governments and NGOs under the scheme are monitored by this Ministry. On sample basis, some projects were also evaluated by NIRD. The evaluation studies reveal that the projects sanctioned under Innovative JRY were largely beneficial to the areas and people for which they are sanctioned.

Employment at block level in rural areas

2774 SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of eligible persons provided employment at block level under Rural Areas Employment Scheme during the last three financial years, States and Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether record of such employment is available in each block office of each district under States and Union Territories;

(c) whether Government propose to reconstitute blocks of all States and Union Territories ensuring that the benefits of the scheme as in part (a) reach to all the villages; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor with steps to be taken to strengthen the Panchayati Raj Institution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) and (b) The number of persons provided employment under different rural employment and poverty alleviation schemes (state-wise) during the last three years is at Annex- ure See Appendix 185, Annexure No. 68. The record of such employment is expected to be available at respective Block Office/ Gram Panchayat.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal with the Central Government for raconstitution of blocks. In order to strengthen the Panchayats as institutions of Self Government, the Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment has been urging the State Governments to speed up the process of devolution of power and functions of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). The Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment is also supporting the State Governments in their awareness generation, capacity building and training efforts for elected members of the PRIs and its functionaries.

The Task Force has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Union Minister for Rural Areas and Employment to study the structure and functioning of Panchayats with a view to ensure their proper role in the effective implementation of the various development programmes in general and concerning the rural poor in particular.

विभिन्न ग्रामीण विकास योजनाओं के लिए बजटीय आवंटन

2775 श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव: क्या ग्रामीण क्षेत्र और रोजगार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने ग्रामीण विकास से संबंधित विभिन्न सामाजिक कार्यक्रमों के लिए बजटीय आवंटन में कटौती कर दी है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं और कितनी कटौती की गई है;

(ग) विभिन्न ग्रामीण विकास कार्यक्रमों के लिए नौवीं पंचवर्षीय योजनावधि में वर्ष-वार और राज्य-वार कितनी धनराशि का प्रावधान किया गया है; और

(घ) क्या सरकार ने पिछली सरकारों द्वारा बनाई योजनाओं को समाप्त करने का निर्णय लिया है, यदि हां, तो इसका क्या औचित्य है?